

SPEECH LANGUAGE OBSERVATIONS: SYSTEMATIC RECORDING METHODS

When considering Speech or Language Impairment, an observation in a natural environment with subsequent reference data or evidence is required. Select one or more of these data driven observation approaches to fulfill this component of a comprehensive special education evaluation.



Recording Method	Definition	Procedure	Examples
Response Ratio <i>(Kassandra & Scott 2020)</i>	Total of number of responses by number of opportunities to respond.	Record each observation of an initiation or response during a given period. All opportunities to respond should also be recorded to obtain a ratio.	Social Initiations Social Responses Non-Responses (e.g., "I don't know.") Use of Nonverbal Response or AAC Verbal Participation in Group or Class
Frequency Recording <i>(Bicard, Bicard, & IRIS Center 2012)</i>	How frequently a behavior occurs within a given period.	Make tally marks on a piece of paper, use a hand-held tally counter, or any variety of creative options.	Articulation Errors Syntax Errors Vocal Misuse Occurrence of Stuttering or Disfluency
Interval Recording <i>(Bicard, Bicard, & IRIS Center 2012)</i>	Whether or not the behavior occurs within a given period.	Mark a data collection sheet to indicate the presence or absence of a behavior.	Social Interaction Vague Referents Verbal Participation in Group or Class Time On Task During Play
Duration Recording <i>(Bicard, Bicard, & IRIS Center 2012)</i>	Length of time that a student engages in a behavior.	Start stopwatch when student begins the behavior and stop stopwatch when the behavior ends.	Duration of Stutter or Disfluency Conversational Turn Length Length of Talk Time in Class Peer Engagement (e.g., play)
Latency Recording <i>(Bicard, Bicard, & IRIS Center 2012)</i>	How long it takes for the behavior to occur.	Start stopwatch when a behavior should start and stop stopwatch when the behavior actually starts.	Direction Following Response to Questions Written Language Production Labeling Objects Use of Nonverbal Response or AAC Preparing Materials Needed

Bicard, Sara C., David F. Bicard and the IRIS Center. 2012. "Measuring Behavior". Accessed August 27, 2021 at http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/wp-content/uploads/pdf_case_studies/ics_measbeh.pdf

Lowery, Kassandra E. and Scott Bellini. 2020. "Teaching Social Skills to Students on the Autism Spectrum in a School Setting: A Guide for Teachers and Other School Practitioners." *Global Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities* 7(1): 4-12. DOI: 10.19080/GJIDD.2020.07.555702

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